## Claims

Ciaiiiis	
[c1]	1.A method of automated rail loading of automotive vehicles, said method
	comprising the steps of:
	attaching tags to the automotive vehicles;
	performing an automated railcar identification; and
	generating an automated load makeup based on the identified railcar and the
	automotive vehicles; and
	locating the automotive vehicles and loading the automotive vehicles on a
	railcar specified in the automated load makeup; and
	shipping the automotive vehicles via the railcar to a final destination specified
	in the automated load makeup.
[c2]	2.A method as set forth in claim 1 wherein said step of performing automated
•	railcar identification comprises scanning an identification number of a railcar.
[c3]	3.A method as set forth in claim 1 including the step of performing automated
	automotive vehicle identification.
[c4]	4.A method as set forth in claim 3 wherein said step of performing automated
	vehicle identification comprises electronically reading the tags on the
	automotive vehicles by RF antennas installed in a rail shipping yard.
[c5]	5.A method as set forth in claim 1 including the step of moving the tagged
	automotive vehicles to a vehicle release point adjacent to a rail yard.
[66]	6.A method as set forth in claim 5 including the step of moving the tagged
[c6]	automotive vehicles in the rail yard.
	automotive venicles in the ran yard.
[c7]	7.A method as set forth in claim 1 wherein said automated load makeup
,	comprises a track spot, railcar number, number of automotive vehicles to be
	loaded on railcar, and destination route code.
[c8]	8.A method as set forth in claim 1 including the step of performing a final
	quality check on the automotive vehicles just prior to loading the automotive

vehicles onto the railcar.

9.A method as set forth in claim 1 including the step of removing the attached [c9] tags from the automotive vehicles prior to shipping. 10.A method as set forth in claim 1 wherein said step of attaching comprises [c10] attaching active radio frequency (RF) tags to the automotive vehicles. 11.A computerized method of automated rail loading of automotive vehicles, [c11] said method comprising the steps of: attaching tags to the automotive vehicles; performing automated automotive vehicle identification; performing an automated railcar identification; generating an automated load makeup based on the identified railcar and the identified automotive vehicles: locating the automotive vehicles and loading the automotive vehicles on a railcar specified in the automated load makeup; and shipping the automotive vehicles via the railcar to a final destination specified in the automated load makeup. 12.A computerized method as set forth in claim 11 wherein said step of [c12] performing automated railcar identification comprises scanning an identification number of a railcar. 13.A computerized method as set forth in claim 11 wherein said step of [c13] performing automated vehicle identification comprises electronically reading the tags on the automotive vehicles by RF antennas installed in a rail shipping yard. 14.A computerized method as set forth in claim 11 including the step of [c14]moving the tagged automotive vehicles to a vehicle release point adjacent to a rail yard. 15.A computerized method as set forth in claim 11 including the step of [c15] moving the tagged automotive vehicles in the rail yard. [c16]

16.A computerized method as set forth in claim 11 wherein said automated

load makeup comprises a track spot, railcar number, number of automotive

vehicles to be loaded on railcar, and destination route code.

[C17] 17.A computerized method as set forth in claim 11 including the step of performing a final quality check on the automotive vehicles just prior to loading the automotive vehicles onto the railcar.

[c18] 18.A computerized method as set forth in claim 11 including the step of removing the attached tags from the automotive vehicles prior to shipping.

[c19] 19.A computerized method as set forth in claim 11 wherein said step of attaching comprises attaching active radio frequency (RF) tags to the automotive vehicles.

[c20] 20.A method of automated rail loading of automotive vehicles, said method comprising the steps of:
attaching radio frequency (RF) tags to the automotive vehicles;
moving the tagged automotive vehicles to a vehicle release point adjacent to a rail yard;

moving the tagged automotive vehicles from the vehicle release point into load lanes in the rail yard;

performing automated automotive vehicle identification;

performing an automated railcar identification;

generating an automated load makeup comprising a track spot, railcar number, number of vehicles to be loaded on railcar, and destination route code based on the identified railcar and the identified automotive vehicles;

locating the automotive vehicles and loading the automotive vehicles on a railcar specified in the automated load makeup;

removing the attached tags from the automotive vehicles; and shipping the automotive vehicles via the railcar to a final destination specified in the automated load makeup.